

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 OMB-01 /095 W

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P R 071905Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8885

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

USCINCSO

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 6224

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PBOR, BH, UK, GT

SUBJ: BELIZE, PRESS COVERAGE

1. VICE FONMIN OBIOLS HELD NEWS CONFERENCE NOV 6, AT WHICH HE ANNOUNCED THAT UN LACKED "COMPETENCE" TO RESOLVE BELIZE CASE. IN THE EVENT OF PASSAGE OF AN ADVERSE RESOLUTION, "GUATEMALA IS NOT OBLIGED TO EITHER ACCEPT IT OR HEED IT."

2. OBIOLS READ TO THE PRESS A LTR DELIVERED BY GUATEMALA'S UN PERMREP MALDONADO TO SEC GEN WALDHEIM. KEY PORTION OF LTR: "MY GOVERNMENT MAKES A FORMAL RESERVATION OVER THE COMPETENCY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE FOURTH COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE (BELIZE) MATTER AND TO TRY TO RESOLVE POLITICALLY A COMPLEX LEGAL PROBLEM (WHICH IS) UNCLASSIFIED

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SUBJECT TO RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE (CONCERNED) PARTIES

THROUGH THE PEACEFUL MEANS ESTABLISHED BY THE UN CHARTER."

3. LTR ADDED THAT FOURTH COMMITTEE HAD BEEN PROVIDED WITH DOCUMENTS ABOUT BELIZE, "WHICH FORMS PART OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NATIONAL UNITY OF GUATEMALA".

4. ACCORDING TO OBIOLS, TALKS WITH UK "ARE STILL IN THE WORKS. BUT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO WAIT UNTIL POSSIBLY NEXT WEEK, WHEN WE KNOW WHAT THE POSITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF OUR TERRITORY OF BELIZE WILL BE TO BE ABLE TO THINK OF THE RESUMPTION OF THESE BILATERAL CONTACTS."

5. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, THE CONGRESS APPROVED RESOLUTIONS INSTRUCTING PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO CONTACT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT REQUESTING THEIR SUPPORT ON THE BELIZE ISSUE. THE GUATEMALAN JOURNALISTS ASSOC. DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT LAUGERUD A RESOLUTION BACKING GUATEMALA'S CLAIM. LAUGERUD EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE JOURNALISTS' SUPPORT, SAYING "IT MAKES US FEEL STRONGER IN OUR CLAIM OF OUR JUST RIGHTS TO THE TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY GREAT BRITAIN. ...THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC IS PREPARED TO ACT IN STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF OUR COUNTRY, WHICH DECLARES THAT BELIZE IS PART OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY." ONLY TWO NEWSPAPERS PRINTED STORIES ABOUT THE NOV 6 MEETING BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND PRESIDENT LAUGERUD; NEITHER CONTAINED ANY DETAILS ABOUT MATTERS DISCUSSED.

6. THE AFTERNOON PRESS OF NOV 6 QUOTED THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS SECRETARY AS SAYING THAT ANY PUBLIC DECLARATION FAVORING BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE, FROM INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS, WAS TANTAMOUNT TO TREASON. ONLY INSTITUTION HE MIGHT HAVE HAD READILY IN MIND IS THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, WHOSE RECTOR RECENTLY CAUTIOUSLY EXPRESSED SOME HERETICAL VIEWS.

7. EDITORIAL OPINION HAS BEEN NOTABLY ABSENT. BOTH UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE MAJOR MORNING NEWSPAPERS CARRIED EDITORIALS ON COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SUBJECTS. THE ONLY STRIDENTLY HAWKISH EDITORIALS TO APPEAR WERE PUBLISHED IN THE AFTERNOON LA HORA OF NOV 6. EDITOR CLEMENTE MARROQUIN ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS "ZERO HOUR" AND THAT "THE MOMENT OF TRUTH HAD ARRIVED." MARROQUIN'S HAWKISHNESS IS A LONGTIME THING, HOWEVER, SO THE EDITORIALS REPRESENTED NO NEW DEPARTURE.

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